

SPROUL WILL LEAD IN BUDGET PARING

Political Coup Seen in Call for Ninety Millions Limit on Expenditures

DEFICITS WILL BE PROBED

By W. S. Thompson
HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 31. Governor Sproul will be the central figure in the inquiry which begins today into the reasons for the large deficiency bills submitted to the Legislature by a number of departments and offices.

In line with his announced program of economy and retrenchment, a policy marked by a maximum of \$80,000,000 for the biennial appropriations, Governor Sproul and the chairman of the appropriations committee have decided to make a start by slashing the demand. Representative William J. McCullagh, of Allegheny county, is chairman of the House appropriations committee and Senator T. Larré Eby, chairman of the Senate committee. They will so jointly, probably in the Governor's office, discuss present and past on the hands of members of the Legislature for which they are now trying to collect the funds.

"We're going to make a deal," said chairman McCullagh. "And we want to find out why and how much went where and spent money which was not authorized by the Legislature of two years ago."

More Under the Surface

Legislators believe that the Governor soon will assert that there is less in the various bills than the amounts and descriptions of which appear in the original bills. The Governor, as a point of fact, always planned, is keeping himself well to the fore, even though his term of office is slipping gradually into the set and the last leaf.

This phase of the situation as set forth by a high-woman statesman, added, is this:

"The Governor is playing a bigger and smarter game for the benefit of his progressive program, than some of the small politicians are aware of."

The \$80,000,000 maximum, the total of appropriation bills, which he says he will sign for the next two years, is in reality a budgeted position master stroke.

In this place, by setting a maximum which is \$12,000,000 less than the sum of two years ago, he has put every member of the Legislature who has an appropriation bill, and of course there is virtually one full membership on a anxious seat, in a position of having to negotiate, like none that he got his appropriation bills through. These make a big hit at home. Consequently each legislator will be anxious to please the Governor. When a legislative comes to see the Governor about the appropriations for his home district, the Governor can well say, "Franklin, you ought to be more amenable to the appropriation bills as laid down. Of course, if we had more revenue, maybe we could do more for your district in the way of appropriations."

Governor Holds Whip Hand

On the last occasion from the Governor will make the legislature think more kindly, the Governor's tactics and alternative suggestions go so far as ways and means of raising millions more in revenue for the state.

"It is a little early to say just what we are doing about increasing our revenue," he said, "but I am sure that the Governor's tactics are destined to affect appropriations will result in more revenue, more progressive legislation and more political power for the Governor in the last two years of his term than the administration thereon has been willing to allow him." A great many people are apprehensive and say this is a frightened speech, but it is not so. The Governor has a ring of supporters.

It is estimated that the grand total of all deficiency bills, three hundred and six, yet to be considered, amounting to \$80,000,000, or the sum of \$8,222,000, will be voted by the Legislature, figures of course being subject to final adjustment of \$8,000,000.

STATE CHARITY BOARD CUTS BUDGETS HARD

The State Charities Aid Board, which goes to the Legislature with a bill for a total of \$20,000,000, has asked for a reduction of \$1,000,000, or a total of \$19,000,000. The same sum of \$222,000,000, will be voted by the Legislature, figures of course being subject to final adjustment of \$8,000,000.

In making these cuts, the State Charities Aid Board, which is composed of the heads of charitable organizations of Philadelphia, and the heads of charitable organizations of the city, has been guided by the principle of economy.

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PLAN TO MODIFY JERSEY DRY BILL

Concessions Likely to Be Made Because of Concentrated Opposition

GOV. EDWARDS IS TACTFUL

Special Dispatch to Evening Public Ledger
Trenton, Jan. 31. Governor Edwards' strategy in gradually withdrawing from further controversy with the Republican Legislature may be indicative of an attempt to bring about a reasonably early adjournment of the 1921 session.

The governor, unhampered by Republican senators in the recent heated squabble over taking from the executive the power to appoint utility commissioners, however, the governor is not strutting about the statehouse corridors with a "chip" on his shoulder.

His explanation of the attitude of "Tom, Dick and Harry" and what they think of certain members of the higher judiciary may have satisfied Republican senators who sought to draw from the governor a reason for his assertion that the public utility commissioners should not be dismissed by the courts.

Amendments to the bill tonight may necessitate postponement of final consideration until tomorrow evening. The governor does not look for another clash with the Republicans. It is no dangerous, politically, from a Democratic standpoint, in view of patronage considerations and possible "wing-clipping" legislation by the majority legislative party.

Will Avoid Clashes

Advisors of the governor, of which there is no dearth, realize the fiasco possible should the governor reenact rate schedules of 1920, fighting the Republicans tooth and nail. The general public, increasingly interested in the last election, looks at a Republican-controlled Legislature from an entirely new perspective. There is little chance for swaying many Republicans this year. The governor evidently has sized up correctly the situation. Scraps are taken unless the Republicans become too aggressive.

Consequently that stringent provisions

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